

# The Good News

First Christian Church  
Anniston, AL

[www.fccanniston.org](http://www.fccanniston.org)

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February 2010

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## **Week of Compassion ~ Feb. 21-28 Ω**

Week of Compassion, our denominational disaster relief and development fund, has loomed large in our hearts lately, as we've tracked the news from Haiti. Week of Compassion has been there, through the work of our missionaries and ecumenical partnership agencies like Church World Service. This month, as we do each February, we will focus on the broader work of Week of Compassion, as we **collect offerings Feb. 21 & 28** to support this ministry. Ω

Your Mission Coordinating Team has planned a beautiful and hands-on observance for Week of Compassion this year. We are asking you to sign up to bring in items for more **hygiene kits**. We have already sent off 19 kits in response to the needs in Haiti. (Thanks from the Mission CT to Janie Morrow for taking care of that!) We are planning to assemble 24 more, after church on Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>, and dedicate them in worship on Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>. Ω

On Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>, we will have a special celebration of the Lord's Supper called "**Compassionate Communion.**" In solidarity with the people of Haiti, who had everything taken away from them, we will celebrate communion the way we always do, except without any bread and juice. We expect this to be a powerful experience that will help us understand the true meaning of this meal. ⊕ Ω

On Sunday, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, we will welcome a **guest preacher**, Captain Jonathan Fisher, an Army chaplain who will share from his experiences of working with people who have experienced trauma. ⊕ Ω

**Feb. 12-13 ~ Congregational Transformation Event** (See p. 2.) ⊕ ♥

**Wed., Feb. 17 ~ Ash Wednesday Service** (See page 2.) ⊕ !!

**Sun., Feb. 21 ~ Council Meeting** (See page 5.) ♥

**Suns., Feb 21 & 28 ~ Week of Compassion Observance Ω !!**

### *Ash Wednesday Service* ⊕

Lent, the season of penitent preparation for Holy Week and Easter, begins with our Ash Wednesday Service on **Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00**. Pause for Prayer that night will just be a time for prayer and meditation with music, without the regular order of service. ⊕

During this service, we focus on our need to confess our sins and remember our mortality. The ashes that we mark on our foreheads or hands are made from the palms we used last year to celebrate Palm Sunday. Make a point to join us for this important and meaningful service. ⊕ !!

### Regional Transformation Event ♥

It's not too late to register for our Region's Congregational Transformation Event on Saturday, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00 am. A fee of only \$25 covers your lunch and the cost of the many respected speakers who will be leading workshops focused on "Being Well: Congregational Health, Vitality, and YOU". Registration forms are available in the office. ♥

There is also a big worship service planned for Friday, Feb. 12 at 7:30, with Rev. Bill Lee preaching. (No cost for service.) Both events take place at FCC-Birmingham. ♥

### *Kids Invited!*

Ella Smith will be celebrating her 5<sup>th</sup> birthday on Saturday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 in the gym at First Methodist of Oxford, and everyone is invited, especially kids! Please RSVP to Trace at 282-2217 or Clay at 343-3638 by earlier that week. ♥

### **Congratulations!**

The Billy Weeks Award for Outstanding Lay Service in 2009 was presented to Suzanne Spiceland on Sunday, January 24 in worship. Suzy has given generously of her time to serve as treasurer, Fellowship C-Team member (and chair), deacon, Children's Ministries volunteer, and with the Evangelism Team and numerous small groups. She was recently ordained as an Elder. ♥

### Neighbors Night at Temple ⊕

The members of Temple Beth-El (the local Jewish synagogue) have invited us to join them for Neighbors Night, an Interfaith Sabbath worship service on Friday, Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30. Rabbi David Baylinson will lead the service, with special explanations about each part. A reception (Oneg Shabbat) will follow in their fellowship hall. Hopefully a good group from FCC will be able to attend. ⊕ !!

## From the Pastor's Pen...

Beloved Church,

If you were the sort of person who believes that God's Spirit moves among us, pouring forth grace and life and passion, you might think something like that is what is happening here at FCC-Anniston.

If you were the sort of person to notice how when we step out in faith, things seem to come together, you might look around at the new members, the Miracle Day plans coming together, the babies making people smile, the new leaders stepping into positions of responsibility, and think that God is blessing us for taking on more than we can handle on our own.

If you were the sort of person who feels the presence of God when each person chips in and offers what they can to help grow the mission of the church, to serve those in need and be a living witness to Christ's love, you might look around and know that God is alive at First Christian Church of Anniston, Alabama!

What sort of person are you?

*Grace and peace,*

*Pastor Rebecca*

*p.s. See you in church!*

## **Service Schedules ♥**

### **February Meetings ♥**

Stewardship CT – Thu., Feb. 4, 4:30

Elders – Sun., Feb. 7, 12:30

Evangelism – Wed., Feb. 10, 6:00

MD Comm. – Thu., Feb. 18, 6:00

**Council – Sun., Feb. 21, 12:30**

### **Elders ♥:**

Feb. 7: Maria Zamarripa

Feb. 14: Robert Soleman

Feb. 21: Suzy Spiceland

Feb. 28: Marie Bittle

### **Communion Set-Up/Service ♥:**

Kenny & Lori Hays

### **Fellowship Hosts ♥:**

Feb. 7: Todd Lesh

Feb. 14: Marie Bittle

Feb. 21:

Feb. 28: Lori Hays

### **Liturgists / Kids Message ♥:**

Feb. 7: Don Jones / Rebecca L.

Feb. 14: Colin Green / Lori Hays

Feb. 21: Trace Smith / Rebecca L.

Feb. 28: Jennifer Roszell /

### **Pre-School / CC / Floater ♥:**

Feb. 7: Suzy S. / Marie B. / Deane A.

Feb. 14: Janie M. / Lori H. / Mary Lib J.

Feb. 21: Anne P. / Dick B. / Karen R.

Feb. 28: Janna S. / Karen R. / Janie M.

### **One + One + One Key**

**⊕ = You ♥ = Church Ω = World**

**!! = Bring a friend!**

## Disciples Women Gathering

Disciples Women met on January 13<sup>th</sup> to do further discernment about what kind of group we want to be. It was decided that we will meet every other month in a member's home for dinner. Members will take turns providing a program and worship time. Our two previous offerings will be combined into one, to be received at each meeting. A budget based on percentages for the "Love", DMF and other donations will be drawn up. The next gathering will be Sat., March 13<sup>th</sup> at Lori Hays' home. All women of the church are welcome!  
⊕ !!

## News from Interfaith Ω

Interfaith Ministries informs us that in 2009: 650 families were assisted with utilities, 126 persons with rent, 342 individuals received emergency prescription assistance and 373 were assisted with transportation, shelter and IDs. The Prescription Drug Program served 755 seniors and disabled individuals, accessing more than \$3,086,091 worth of medications. Ω

First Christian Church gave \$1,763.29 in 2009. *"Thank you for supporting us in so many ways!"* ~Martha Vandervoort  
Ω

**You are invited  
to the IM Annual Meeting on  
Tuesday, Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm  
at Grace Episcopal Church. Ω**

## PAGE TURNERS

The Page Turners will be discussing "Nature's Witness" by Daniel M. Harrell on Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:00. A second session on this book will be scheduled at that meeting. See Anne Phillips for more information. ⊕ !!

## New Bible Study Group?



A few of us are getting a lot out of our Common Daily Bible Reading, but we know that some of the rest of you could benefit from this simple Bible study too. Pick up a CDBR booklet and join us Sunday mornings at 9:30. If you would be interested in a discussion group after Pause for Prayer on Wednesday evening, please let Anne Phillips or Julie Nix know. We would like to find another time during the week to help you engage in Bible Study. ⊕ !!

## Pastor Vacationing in Northeast ⊕

Pastor Rebecca will be on vacation, visiting friends in Boston and Albany, NY, Feb. 22-28. ⊕ On Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, we will have a guest preacher. Please contact the church office, Moderator Judy Bell or Elder Chair Robert Soleman if you have an emergency or pastoral need during this time.

## Ministry News ♥

### Council to Meet ~ Feb 21<sup>st</sup>

The FCC Council will meet Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup> in the Fellowship Hall, after worship at 12:30. The 2010 Council includes Judy Bell, moderator; Kenny Hays, vice-moderator; Janna Sutherland, secretary; Janie Morrow, treasurer; Bill Rowland, Trustee chair; Anne Phillips, Spiritual Formation CT rep; Joanne Wells, Mission CT rep; Arlan Roszell, Stewardship CT rep; and Suzy Spiceland, Fellowship CT rep. **Council reports are due** to the office on **Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>**. ♥

### Evangelism Team Meeting ~ All Welcome! ~ Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>

The Evangelism Team will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> after Pause for Prayer to evaluate where we are and what needs to happen next in our movement to grow our church family so that reality matches our dreams. Anyone who is interested is welcome to join us! ♥

### Children's Ministries Meeting and Clean-Up Day ~ Feb 13<sup>th</sup>

All Children's Ministries volunteers are invited to a meeting and clean-up day on Saturday, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. We will go over curricula plans and needs, and spend some time tidying up the toys and equipment. We hope to get some hooks for coats and bags installed soon. The Spiritual Formation C-Team would also like to thank everyone who donated snacks, juice and wet wipes! ♥

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### *Sharing about Stewardship ~ "Pass the Salt" Guests Ω*

As has been announced, our monthly "Pass the Salt" offering will be going to one of six different agencies each month this year. Kirsten Stephenson of Daybreak Crisis Recovery Center will be with us in worship on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> to share a few words about their mission to support survivors of sexual assault and provide prevention education. It is our hope to have a guest each month from the agencies we are supporting with these special over-and-above gifts. Thanks for your generosity! Ω

**UPDATE:** Big Brothers Big Sisters has requested to remain in our basement offices through the end of February. Let us know if you know of a non-profit that might be interested in renting that space when they leave. Ω

Ω Ω Ω **"Pass the Salt" Recipient This Month: Daybreak Center** Ω Ω Ω

# Church in Covenant Opportunities and News

## Regional Assembly at FCC-Decatur - April 23-25 ⊕ ♥

Now is the time to start thinking about attending our Regional Assembly at First Christian Church of Decatur, Friday-Sunday, April 23-25. The theme this year is "...to the ends of the earth." Guest speakers include Week of Compassion director Rev. Amy Gopp, Global Ministries Africa Executive Rev. Sandra Gourdet and Global Ministries Latin America Executive Rev. Felix Ortiz-Cotto. Registration is only \$30 for adults before March 22, plus the costs of housing and meals. ⊕

It will be very important for us to have a large group at Regional Assembly this year, so that we can spread the excitement about Miracle Day. We will have a display where we'll give people information about our projects and sell t-shirts. We will need to confirm our voting delegates at the Council meeting this month, so if you know you will be attending, please let Moderator Judy Bell know. Registration and housing information is available in the office. ♥

## Pastor to Attend Church Meetings this Month ♥

Pastor Rebecca will be attending an Extended Table meeting with the Mission Alignment Coordinating Council in Indianapolis Feb. 12-13, in her roles as a DHM Board member and a congregational pastor. She will be attending the Regional Board meeting on Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> at Grace Christian Church in Helena in her capacity as Chair of the Regional Committee on Ministry. ♥

⊕ Register for Quadrennial Assembly! Visit [www.quadrennial.org](http://www.quadrennial.org) ⊕

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## **Regional Prayer Calendar**

*In 2010, we will continue to send cards with our prayer blessings to our partner churches in the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region. This year, we are inviting Iglésia to join us in signing the cards. The Prayer Calendar for February is:*

Feb. 7: First Christian Church, Cullman, AL – CJ Cobb

Feb. 14: First Christian Church, Bessemer, AL – Kim Pilkinton

Feb. 21: Pleasant View Christian Church, Camp Hill, AL – Horace Gregory

Feb. 28: Bethlehem Christian Church, Ft. Deposit, AL – Bennie Stanford

South Baldwin Christian Church, Foley, AL – Carl Tinnea

## Long-Term Calendar

Tues., Feb. 9 ~ Interfaith Ministries Annual Meeting, 7:00 pm

Feb 12-13 ~ Regional Transformation Event ~ Miracle Day Publicity

Fri., Feb. 12 ~ Neighbors Night at Temple Beth-El

Sun., Feb 14 ~ WoC/CWS Kit Assembly after church

**Wed., Feb. 17 ~ Ash Wednesday ~ Lent Begins**

Thu., Feb 18 ~ Miracle Day Committee Meeting, 6:00

**Feb. 21-28 ~ Week of Compassion**

One Sunday in March ~ Baby Dedication and Shower for Amelia Medley

One Sunday in March ~ Food Drive

Mar. 12-13 ~ Regional Men's Retreat ~ Miracle Day Publicity

Sat., Mar. 13 ~ Disciples Women's Gathering

Thu., Mar. 18 ~ Miracle Day Committee Meeting, 6:00

Thu., Mar. 25 ~ Valley CC Seniors Group visits Anniston

Apr. 10-11 ~ "Basebells" group from FCC-HSV

Apr. 23-25 ~ Regional Assembly in Decatur ~ Miracle Day Publicity

**Saturday, June 5 ~ Miracle Day! Sunday, June 6 ~ 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

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*Celebrating the Unity and Diversity of the Body of Christ!*

First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
1327 Leighton Ave.  
Anniston, AL 36207

Visit us at [www.fccanniston.org](http://www.fccanniston.org)

**Sunday School 9:30 a.m.**  
**Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.**